

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 34 of 1878.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 24th August 1878.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Barāhanagar	4,000	
2	"Rājshāhye Sambād"	Rājshāhye ... ..	.....
3	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā"	Bhavanīpore ... ..	.....
5	"Suhrid"	Calcutta ... ..	.....
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Cālnā Prakāsh"	Cālnā ... ..	.....
7	"Hindu Lalanā"	Nawābgang, Barrack- pore. ... ..	.....
8	"Sahayogī"	Bhavanīpore, Calcutta ... ..	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Banga Hitaishī"	Bhavanīpore, Calcutta ... ..	.....
10	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	658	15th August 1878.
11	"Bhārat Sanskarak"	Harinābhi ... ..	.....	16th ditto.
12	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto ... ..	.....
13	"Bishwa Dūt"	Tāliganj, Calcutta ... ..	.....	21st ditto.
14	"Bardwān Prachārikā"	Bardwān	165	
15	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Ditto ... ..	.....	20th ditto.
16	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	400	18th ditto.
17	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	1,168	16th ditto.
18	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	200	21st ditto.
19	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca	300	17th ditto.
20	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye... ..	.....	14th ditto.
21	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ... ..	.....
22	"Pratikār"	Ditto	235	16th ditto.
23	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākinīā, Rangpore	250	15th ditto.
24	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	516	18th ditto.
25	"Sahachara"	Calcutta ... ..	.....	19th ditto.
26	"Sambād Bhāskar"	Ditto ... ..	.....
27	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Ditto	5,500	17th ditto.
28	"Soma Prakāsh"	Bhavanīpore	700	19th ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
29	"Banga Mitra"	Calcutta	4,000	
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Sambād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	550	16th to 22nd ditto.
31	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto ... ..	.....	17th to 22nd ditto.
32	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	15th to 20th and 22nd ditto.
33	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto ... ..	.....	19th, 20th and 22nd ditto.
34	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto ... ..	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah	300	
36	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore ... ..	.....
37	"Barisāl Vartābāha"	Barisāl	300	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
38	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	400	17th August 1878.
URDU.				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
39	"Akhabār-ul-Akhiār"	Mazufferpore ... ..	.....
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	509	
41	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta ... ..	.....
PERSIAN.				
42	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	16th ditto.

POLITICAL.

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR,
August 16th, 1878.

1. THE *Sambád Prabhákara* in writing of the contemplated embassy to Cábul attributes the estrangement between the Indian Government and Afghánistán to the

The contemplated mission to Cabul.

Peshawár Conference and the harsh policy of Lord Lytton. Indian politicians have always sought to maintain friendly relations with Afghánistán; the gradual disappearance however, one by one, of our old Indian administrators has led to an entire subversion of the old policy, and the consequences are beginning to make themselves apparent. The laws, and the administration,—everything has become hard and stern ever since the Queen became Empress of India. It is to the Conservative Ministry we owe it that everything is against us. Our former administrators knew that it would not be an easy thing to take Cábul, and that although it might be taken the difficulty would be in governing it. The country could not be governed except at great expense and by the maintenance there of a strong military force. The Amir represents the chief among the wild tribes of the frontier; if he could be won over, these tribes would cease their depredations. Moreover, Russia has been steadily advancing into Central Asia, and has pushed her conquests until she is face to face with Afghánistán. Cábul is the highway for Russian advance into India. Our former statesmen feeling that if they could maintain friendly relations with the Amir by gifts, whether of money or weapons, Russia would find it difficult to overcome him and seize the road to India, made presents to him, invited him to their *darbárs*, and treated him with great deference. Lord Lytton's policy, however, is quite the opposite of this. In return for a subsidy he wishes to place an English Resident in Cábul, to have the control of the Afghán troops, and prevent any communication with the Russians. In fact, the Amir must be cowed down. For our part, we have always asserted that this is no time for carrying out a harsh policy. Our rulers deny that the Peshawár Conference led to any estrangement. The public wish, however, to know why the money subsidy paid so long to the Amir has been stopped, and why the Amir had so much to say against the English during the visit of the Turkish Envoy? If these things are not true, how comes it that the Amir only recently received the Russian Embassy in full *darbár*, expressed his joy at the Russian victories, and assented to the establishment of trade relations between the two countries? The European papers say that Russia is advancing towards Afghánistán, and will soon enter India! Who can say that the Amir has not asked the Russian armies to come? Although we know for a certainty that the Russians will in no wise be able to enter India, and that they would have to return defeated from the frontiers if they made the attempt, yet, if the English can cement an alliance with the Amir, the Russians will never even try to enter this country. The writer concludes by referring to the contemplated embassy to Cábul, the object of which, he says, has not as yet been made known. It may be to uphold an overbearing policy, or to re-establish the former friendly relations between the two countries, or to discover how far Russian influence has extended in Cábul, or how far the Amir is favourable to the Russian cause, or possibly to ascertain to which of the two European nations the Musalmáns have a leaning.

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR,
August 17th, 1878.

2. The *Sambád Prabhákara* alluding to the return of Lord Beaconsfield from the Berlin Congress, and his statement that he had preserved the honour of

The Berlin Congress.

England and established a European peace, observes that it is after all but a temporary peace which has pleased no one, and least of all the Sultán, whose kingdom has been split up and partitioned. The Russians have, owing to

the intervention of England, lost some of the fruits of their victory. France and Italy are dissatisfied at the cession of Cyprus, and Greece is the angriest of all, because she has failed to realize a single expectation. Persia is but partially satisfied with a province. Germany is neither angry nor pleased. In time the flames of war will be re-kindled and numberless lives will be sacrificed. Russia and Austria will have some trouble in getting their portions of country from the Turks. This may lead to war again, when, who can say, but England may become involved on account of her alliance with the Turks. Everything is involved in doubt and danger. On this side the Central Asian question is again exciting alarm. The English Government has plainly declared that it is ignorant of the intrigues that the Russians are carrying on with the Amir. If a treaty has really been entered into between these two, and an Ambassador is sent to Cabul, there will be fresh trouble. For our part we do not want the peace that the Berlin Treaty has brought; we want a lasting peace.

3. The *Sádháraní*, thus concludes an article on the occupation of Cyprus and the Berlin Treaty :—We make no

SADHARANI,
August 18th, 1878.

The cession of Cyprus.

doubt the people of Bengal will be exceedingly gratified to read of these proceedings. We are more competent than any one else to understand what is meant by the sun of prosperity having at last risen on Cyprus. We hope and pray that Russia may not do anything so suicidal as to attempt an advance into Asia. May Cyprus realize a perfect prosperity.

4. The *Samáchára Chandriká* is alarmed at the report that a body of Russian troops has been despatched to Central Asia. This, the Editor thinks, means India; for this is the only country that Russia covets

SAMACHARA
CHANDRIKA,
August 19th, 1878.

The Russians, the English, and the Amir of Cabul.

in Asia. We have heard that Russia is intriguing with the Amir, who has received a Russian Envoy, and that England is also thinking of sending an embassy to Cabul. It is not good for the English to be estranged from the Amir, who possesses the keys of India, and who may lock or unlock the gates as he chooses. Although the English have fortified and garrisoned the frontier, Russia, if supported by the Amir, will be sure to give the English trouble. Referring to Sir Stafford Northcote's statement in the House of Commons, the writer goes on to observe that the Amir is of his own accord making friendly advances to Russia, and this would argue some secret design. It is reported that Russian troops have entered Cabul. Now, how could this be if the Amir had not invited them? Be that as it may, the English should at this time seek friendly relations with the Amir, because if he is displeased there may be trouble for India. Friendly relations should be preserved not only with the Amir but also with the Native Princes of the country, if India is to have tranquillity. It is so that the English will be able to retain permanent possession of the country, and no evil will ever happen to it.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

5. Referring to the "Appellate Benches" which the *Mirror* says are to be established in January, the *Bhárat Mihir* recommends that the Judges should not hold

BHARAT MIHIR,
August 15th, 1878.

The proposed Appellate Benches and the Civil Court Ameen.

their sittings in any one place in a district, but that they should go on circuit, so as to afford facilities to poor litigants in the conduct of their suits. The Editor asks the authorities to try and improve the *morale* of the civil court ameens, whose duties are generally of a very responsible character. The officers on whom devolve the duty of making local investigations in connection with civil suits, are paid by the parties; they are as a class given to bribery and corruption and do not enjoy the confidence of the

people. It is exceedingly desirable that really honest and able men should be appointed to this work. Persons of the class of Munsifs should be made eligible for the office of civil ameen.

BHARAT MIHIR,
August 15th, 1878.

6. The *Bhārat Mihir* observes that the repeal of the Income Tax Act by Lord Northbrook, prior to his giving up the reins of Government, gave much satisfaction

to the people, so that there was no discontent observable when he left the country. High expectations were entertained regarding his successor Lord Lytton, owing to his attitude in the Fuller case and his invitation of Native Editors to the Delhi Imperial *darbār*; but these hopes have been destroyed by the Viceroy's subsequent acts,—the imposition of the License Tax, the Public Works Cess, and the passing of the Arms Act. A succession of national calamities has also marked his administration, and the dissatisfaction of the people has been intensified by the Vernacular Press Act, for which there was not the slightest necessity. In spite, however, of Act IX and the ineffectual efforts made for its repeal, the Editor concludes that "if there be such a thing as virtue, and if God be the God of the conquered and conquerors alike, then we shall in good time have justice done us."

SADHARANI,
August 18th, 1878.

7. The *Sādhārani* complains that the miserably poor labouring women of the villages, who eke out a scanty living by the thrashing of grain, have not been exempted from the operation of the License Tax. The Assessor Babu, clad in a *dhooti* of fine texture and wearing spectacles on his nose, meets one of these women and asks—"Have you any children?" *Answer*—"No." *Assessor*—"Who feeds you?" *Answer*—"This *dheki* of mine." The Babu concludes that she makes an income of a hundred rupees, and she is accordingly assessed at one rupee.

DACCA PRAKASH,
August 18th, 1878.

8. The *Dacca Prakāsha* translates a rather long extract from the *London Times* (which it designates the mouth-piece of the English public) to show how that paper, which, owing to its ignorance of India, had hitherto supported the Press Act, had changed its opinion since it had become acquainted with the real state of affairs in this country. The writer feels that by this candid acknowledgment of its mistake the *Times* has proved itself to be large-minded. The recent agitation here, and the agitation in England through Mr. Gladstone on the subject of this Act, have shown that the cry of "India in danger" raised in this country, and which struck a panic into the heart of the Secretary of State, was after all a false alarm.

SAHACHARA,
August 19th, 1878.

9. The *Sahachara* considers the reduction of the salt duty by Sir John Strachey, with the view to uniformity of rate, to be not a good move; the Government loses 30 *lakhs*; the tax-payers are in no wise benefited, and the country gains nothing, for we are purchasing salt at the same rates as before. Sir John is crotchety in matters of revenue. He considers the Income Tax suited to this country, but he thinks that the people will suffer if the salt duty is not reduced. Salt being a necessary article of food, he has reduced the Salt tax and imposed a License Tax. In matters of taxation, failure to consult the wishes and acquaint oneself with the opinions of the public, invariably results in mistake. The common people do not feel the salt duty. It sits upon them as lightly as the fly on the horns of the bull, though Sir John Strachey seems as anxious as was that fly that the duty should not be felt to be burdensome. The several Local Governments stated as much when consulted by the Supreme Government, and the people would not have objected if the salt duty had been raised instead of reduced; but the License Tax touches the commonest individual, and the

people of this country strongly object to direct taxation. The Government is quite right to devise resources out of which to help the public in times of distress; but why seek to accumulate these resources by means that are offensive to the people, at the very time when the people are themselves saying, "increase the salt duty and take the money for famine."

10. The *Sahachara* alluding to the speeches made in Parliament anent the Press Act, observes that Parliament will hereafter keep a watchful eye on India.

SACHACHARA,
August 19th, 1873.

The Press Act.

As Mr. Gladstone has said this, our readers should rejoice. The Ministry have gained a nominal victory, but Mr. Gladstone has smashed in the head of the Press Act. What will the Government of India do now? Magnanimous people do not hesitate to acknowledge error. Repeal the Press Act, and do not uselessly foster discontent.

11. The *Bishwa Dúta* says that, when the people got disgusted with hearing of fresh taxes the designation was changed, and now we hear of cesses. The British Indian Association opposed these cesses on the ground of their interfering with the permanent settlement; but they have been silent since it was explained to them that the main principles of the Bevenue Law were not being disturbed, and that the increased revenue was required to meet the necessities of the times. Since then, the Public Works and Road Cesses have been created. The manner in which these cesses are being realized in the 24-Pergunnahs under our very eyes is something fearful. The collecting peons come with a consequential air and demand the cess payable by a zamindár, and if the money is not instantly forthcoming they proceed to attach and take away the household property down to the very brass utensils and bathing towels. This is the way in which respectable people are insulted. A Bábu on his way to Court in his carriage was obliged to descend and his carriage was seized. A zamindár's servant was conveying an instalment of Government revenue for payment into the Collectorate, when he was seized on the way on account of some tax, though afterwards released by order of the Collector. The zamindárs always arrange to pay their cesses to the pice along with the Government revenue; the only occasional irregularity that occurs being in connection with joint or disputed estates, and estates in which females or minors are concerned. The real defaulters escape insult; it is the men who are anxious to preserve their respect and credit by obeying the law and making timely payment of the Government revenue and engaging trustworthy *mukhtiárs* to keep them informed of any default, that are singled out for attack by the peon. This is certainly a blot on the Government mode of collecting the revenue. We entreat Rásbihári Bábu, the Názir of the Road Cess Department, to teach his peons manners. The other day we witnessed a road cess peon, accompanied by a police chaukidár, making a demand on a co-sharer of a joint mahál. The co-sharer, who had paid up his share of the cess, referred the peon to the defaulting shareholders, but the man paid no heed to him, and summoned the police to his aid. An Inspector and a dozen constables came on the scene, and the zamindár to save his honor paid up for the other defaulters.

BISHWA DUT,
August 21st, 1873.

12. The *Bishwa Dúta* attributes India's poverty to the extravagant expenditure incurred by its rulers, so that, at the least sign of famine, subscriptions have to be sought from Native Princes and from England. The recently appointed Famine Commission can only become aware of the incidental causes of distress among the people: reckless expenditure in every department of the State is the main cause. Every inexperienced Englishman looks upon

BISHWA DUTA.

Reduction of Government expenditure recommended.

India as a place for making experiments. A large sum of money has been expended on the Madras harbour works to no purpose, and no one seems to be held responsible for it. In the Public Works Department numerous experiments are being made. But the present is no time for experimenting with India's money. Government should practise economy by reducing the salaries of its European officials, who are the highest paid men in the world. It may be said that good men are not to be had on small salaries, but this we do not believe. Situations are difficult to be got in England now-a-days, and we believe that good men could be got to come out here on lower salaries. To show the anxiety of the English for employment, we noticed in one of the papers that there were about 100 candidates for two or three posts in the Medical Department. We do not mean to say that existing salaries should be reduced and Rs. 2,000 made Rs. 200; but we maintain that all practicable reductions should be made.

EDUCATION.

HINDU HITAIISHINI,
August 17th, 1878.

13. Adverting to a statement recently made in the papers, that on the occasion of a visit paid by Mr. Garrett, the Inspector of Schools, to a school in Jessore, he was so displeased with the unmannerliness of the pupils, who made him no *salaams*, that he at once stopped the Government grant, the *Hindu Hitaishini* complains, that boys in both English and Vernacular schools pay no proper respect to their superiors, whether they be teachers or parents. He blames teachers for not insisting on good manners. Instead of stopping the Government grant to an institution on this account, it would be more to the purpose to punish the head-master for neglect of duty.

SADHARANI,
August 18th, 1878.

14. The writer of a communicated article to the *Sádháraní*, admits that the abolition of child-marriage would be productive of great good, but he does not approve of Mr. Garrett's proposal. He does not think that either the educational or social interests of the country would be promoted by these means. He does not approve of a foreigner and a person of a different religion aiming at some imaginary improvement in the Education Department, and on this account interfering with social customs already complicated enough.

FAMINE.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
August 14th, 1878.

15. Looking at the present deplorable state of the country on all sides, the *Hindu Ranjika* observes, that at no previous period of the history of this country has famine been known to recur so periodically as it does now; golden Bengal now cries aloud for want of food; money is cheap, edibles are scarce; cultivation does not prosper, because of the number of people that have taken to it ever since the country has been inundated with English goods: land and labour have both increased in value. The *áshu* and *amán* crops in Serájganj and Pabná, the granaries of Bengal, have been destroyed by floods; so that there will be real famine in this province. Government should bestir itself betimes, and the road cess should be suspended for two years. The chief trouble of the peasant just now is the refusal of the *mahájans* to grant them loans, they having been unable to re-pay their previous debts. But of all classes, the state of the middle class, consisting of respectable men—*Káyasthas*, *Bráhmans*, and *Vaidyas*—is the most to be deplored. The trammels of caste will not permit them to work, whilst to beg they are ashamed. Government, during the *Behár* crisis, declared all

places to be famine-stricken where rice was selling at Rs. 6; it should make the same declaration in Bengal now.

16. The *Bhárát Mihir* learns from its Bagurá correspondent, that a great

BHARAT MIHIR,
August 16th, 1878.

Accounts from Bagurá-Shérpur.

flood, the like of which has not been seen for the last quarter of a century, has visited the place, demolishing the houses of the peasants and carrying away cattle and oxen; the women and children have been the greatest sufferers; many peasants are perishing with hunger and have nowhere where they can stand. In the midst of all the distress, the zamindár of Shérpur, Bábu Rádháraman Munshí, is making great efforts to save the lives of men and cattle. He has been distributing food and money amongst the poor.

17. Accounts from Manickgunge state that, owing to the rise of the

BHARAT MIHIR.

State of Manickgunge.

water; rice, vegetables, &c., are procurable with difficulty, and many poor people can scarcely get two meals a day. A large portion of the *áshu* rice has been destroyed, but the little that has been harvested from the good crop that sprang up will almost equal the crops of the year. As much of the *aman* crop is still under water, the result cannot as yet be guessed; the water is falling.

18. The Barpétá correspondent of the *Dacca Prakásha* describes the

DACCA PRAKASH,
August 18th, 1878.

State of Barpéta.

present floods as more terrible than any that have occurred during the past seven or eight years. The fields thick with jungle are like an ocean now. The *aus* has been much damaged, and the coarsest description of rice is selling at Rs. 4 a maund. If this high rate prevails much longer the distress will be appalling. Cattle are dying from want of shelter and food as well as from disease.

19. The *Pratikára* publishes a letter from Banamálí Sarkár of the Seráiganj school, under date the 31st July, wherein the writer complains that the people of that place can hold out no longer; heavy rain is falling night and day. There is nothing but water to be seen on all sides: the coarsest description of rice is procurable with difficulty at seven seers, and other edibles are very dear. Rice cannot be brought into the place by reason of the roads and ghâts being covered with water: people are obliged to sleep on raised platforms. The mortality, mainly among children, is on the increase, the deaths being chiefly from drowning and snake-bites. All the paddy is under water and no hope is entertained of its recovery. The water has entered the Magistrate's bangalow and catcherry: there has been no such flood for the past 15 or 20 years. Cattle and men are suffering greatly. If the present state of things continues for 10 or 15 days longer, not a single beast of any kind will be left.

PRATIKAR,
August 16th, 1878.

20. The *Hindu Hitaishiní* notices the severity of the distress oc-

HINDU HITAIISHINI,
August 17th, 1878.

Severe distress in Eastern Bengal.

casioned by the floods in Eastern Bengal. Food-grains, vegetables, and other necessities of life are all selling at excessively high rates, and all classes of the population are affected. Many respectable people in villages are obliged to borrow grain and money to procure a meal: a quantity of grain suitable for one day's consumption is made to suffice for three days. The *áshu* paddy has been considerably destroyed by the sudden floods, and the hopes of the peasant are now concentrated in the *aman* and jute crops. Worn out men, men wasted by hunger and all but dead, may be seen in the villages. Famine has become in a manner permanent in our country; but how much more can the people endure? Now that jewels and metal-ware have all been disposed of, what must the people come to? Although almost all the districts of Eastern Bengal are in this deplorable condition, no

charitably disposed person has come forward with offers of assistance. The Editor concludes with an appeal to the benevolence of the public.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
August 20th, 1878.

21. The *Bardwán Sanjivani* says it is difficult to predict how the crops will turn out here, as hitherto there has been little or no rain. For the past 10 or 12 days, however, it has been pouring down at a rate which threatens, if it continues, to deluge the country; at all events agricultural operations have been impeded in some places, and there is fear of malarious fever. Scarcity of food continues as before. With all the distress, real and impending, the inhabitants have to pay the highest rate of road cess.

22. The *Sambád Púrnochandrodaya* publishes accounts from *Barisál* of the incessant rain that had fallen there. The water that had risen with the wind, had since fallen; but the sun had not come out, and things were selling at famine prices. Rice was at Rs. 4-2 to 4-4 per maund; the price of *dál*, &c., was still very high. The *bora* paddy had been scorched by the previous intense heat; the *aus* had in several places been flooded; whilst the *aman* and *roá* seeds and seedlings had been washed away. To these matters the Government was paying no heed: it was not failing, however, to look after the collection of the License Tax.

SAMBAD PURNA-
CHUNDRODAYA.
August 21st, 1878.

Accounts from Barisál.

LOCAL.

BHARAT MIHIE,
August 15th, 1878.

23. The *Kámárjaní* correspondent of this paper describes the force and extent of the floods as very great. New *áshu* rice is selling at ten, and old at eight, seers per rupee. *Kámárjaní* is a large emporium, it has a canal on the south, and, as there is no outlet for the water in the mart, people are put to much inconvenience. The local authorities are asked to have a bridge constructed on the canal and drains providing an outlet for the water.

PRATIKAR,
August 16th, 1878.

24. The *Pratikára* complains of the inconvenience to suitors, pleaders, and *muktiárs*, occasioned by the separation of the Civil and Criminal Courts, which had hitherto been located in one place. The Editor of the paper prays Government to have both the Courts located in the section of the barracks allotted to the European hospital. The accommodation there would meet the needs of the law courts, and the place is shaded by trees, and is near the river. Government has no need to keep troops in *Murshidábád*, for it has nothing to fear in these times of peace and tranquillity. If this arrangement cannot be effected, let the Civil Court be removed to No. 2 Barracks.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
August 16th, 1878.

25. *Shyámácharan Banerji*, a correspondent, writing to the *Education Gazette*, urges upon the Road Cess Committee the necessity of constructing a road from *Vaidyapore* to *Calná* in continuation of the *catchá* road from the *Bainchi* station to the latter place. This communication with *Calná* would be a great convenience to the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages of *Pátálpára*, *Mirhát*, *Singárkon*, *Bádlá*, *Komarpara*, &c.

BISHWA DUT,
August 21st, 1878.

26. A *Chittagong* correspondent deplures the sad lot of the inhabitants, who have been visited in succession by famine, fire, thefts, the October cyclone, three salt-water floods, pestilence, destruction of crops, drought, excessive rain, and taxation; and now, to add to these disasters, fever has broken out so extensively that there is scarcely a house without a fever patient in it. Some kind and benevolent person is asked to send aid and deliver the people from the jaws of untimely death. The price of rice has this week fallen to Rs. 4 a maund.

Fever in Chittagong.

27. The *Grámvartá Prakáshiká* complains of the outrages being committed on the people of Kushtiá by gangs of *lattiáls* and *badmáshes*: the present complaint is confined to the *thanas* of Bhaluká and Bhádáliá, in which there are four gangs, the first known as that of *Haibtulyá*, the second as that of *Káshínáth Bishwás*, the third as that of *Tárakáli Dévi*, and the fourth as that of *Rámákánta Bábu*. Constant affrays with sticks are going on among these gangs, and property is being plundered to the great detriment of the suffering poor. If it be asked why so many disturbances take place here, we turn to the local police,—the *Bháluká thana* being a worthless one, and its *jamadár* a worthless officer. The Inspector Púrna Bábu, who is an active man, should at once send a fit person to the above *thana*. The people of this sub-division are looking to Mr. Anderson to acquaint himself with the state of things.

GRAMVARTÁ
PRAKASHIKA,
August 21st, 1878.

MISCELLANEOUS.

28. The *Sádháraní* has written two articles, one on the consequences of violating social custom, and the other on native taste and sentiment. Talking of the tendency of English-speaking natives to adopt European manners and customs, the writer admits that, in statesmanship as in war, the Hindu race has been surpassed by the English; that Bengalis, Hindustanis, Seikhs, and Mahrattas alike have had to accept inferiority in these respects, and must be content to do so for many days to come. But it is not to be inferred from this, that social morality, as it exists among the Hindus, is inferior to the social morality of the English, or that English manners and customs ought to be substituted for Hindu. Why do we set up Englishmen as our models, and blindly copy European manners? By so doing we are only going step by step into further trouble. The writer does not think that any improvement has taken place in Bengali society in the matter of taste within the last 20 years, though there has been an increase of civilization. The body is as filthy now as it was before, only the outward coverings have been cleaned: this becomes evident whenever Hindu society is compelled, as it sometimes is, to throw off the disguises which conceal its deformities. The recent adultery case is an example. The morbid curiosity it has excited, as in the *Mahantás* case, among all classes of the native population, is not an indication, as the *Mirror* has it, of an enlightened interest in social questions, but merely of the love of scandal.

SADHARANI,
August 18th, 1878.

29. Writing of the recent trial of Upéndralál for adultery, the *Sahachara* says, that no one regrets the punishment that has overtaken so unnatural a crime. The Roman code of laws contained no punishment for patricide, as the Romans believed that no law was required for a crime which it was impossible to commit. In the same way we have no synonym for incest in Bengali, because the commission of such a crime is almost an impossibility in Hindu society. Upéndra Bábu has cast a stain on our pure society; he was a *káyastha* by caste, a man of means and education, and a lawyer; no one dreamt that he would perpetrate so grave a crime.

SAHACHARA,
August 19th, 1878.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 24th August 1878.

ROBERT ROBINSON,

Offg. Government Bengali Translator.

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